HOME RECORDING PRIMER

Is Home Recording Right for Me?

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IS HOME RECORDING RIGHT FOR ME?

Not many years ago, the idea of creating professional recordings at home was simply unrealistic. Firstly, the investment to purchase recording equipment, microphones, and all of the associated accessories that used to make a studio function was significant. And on top of that, operating traditional recording equipment was complicated and time-consuming. Many recording studios of that era kept full-time engineers and technicians on their staff exclusively to handle gear maintenance in addition to the professionals they employed to actually run sessions and make audio recordings.

Today, however, things have changed. Advancements in digital technology have made basic recording equipment and software affordable, accessible, and much more user-friendly. It's still an investment, but acquiring the equipment necessary to provide professional voice over recordings from home is much more tangible these days than it was years ago. In addition, though knowledge and skill is still required to successfully operate recording equipment, the process is drastically simplified and much more user-friendly.

The result of all this? Simple: home recording has now become a common capability for many voice over professionals. Every day, voice over work is done via home-based recording all over the world.

Before you read further, let us make one thing abundantly clear: home recording is not a requirement for success in voice over.

An enormous amount of professional voice over work takes place at professional studios, agencies, and similar businesses. Many voice actors choose to do all of their work at these professional facilities. This approach offers many advantages, including ease in building long-term repeat work

relationships. On the other hand, a voice professional may choose to pursue work exclusively from home, allowing them full schedule flexibility. Today, however, a common practice is to offer voice over services through both professional studios and a home recording setup. Working this way provides a voice actor the flexibility to work for clients all over the world from the comfort of their home while simultaneously building relationships at professional production facilities and agencies in and around their community.

The simplicity and affordability of modern recording equipment has certainly made exciting waves in the voice over industry. Still, two

undeniable and important facts remain. First, home recording is simply not a fit for everyone. And second, you do not "need" to build and run a home studio to pursue voice over successfully!

This publication is designed to give you perspective on how home recording works. By the end, you should have an understanding of whether a home studio is right for you.

Some of the things we'll cover include:

What opportunities can I pursue if I choose to record at home?

Operating a home studio opens up varied voice over opportunities, from web-based voice over marketplaces to the coffee shop up the street.

What else do I get out of a home studio?

Building a home studio comes with some serious non-gig-related perks!

What skills should I possess to consider recording from home?

We'll provide some information to help you determine your comfort level with recording technology.

Do I need a special room or space to record at home?

You'll read about what sort of spaces make a good home recording studio, and what you can do to create such a space in the comfort of your home.

What equipment do I need to record at home?

From microphones to monitors, we'll bring you through all of the home recording basics!

What software do I need to record at home?

Choosing the right software package is an important part of putting together a recording studio.

Are web-based voice over marketplaces easy places to find work?

We'll discuss some of the common misconceptions of the web-based VO (short for "Voice Over") marketplace.

How do my responsibilities change as a home recording provider?

Recording at home means taking on the responsibilities of the audio engineer and producer in addition to those of the voice actor.

Do I need to build my home recording setup now, or could I do it in the future?

Many newcomers to our field work to build some success prior to setting up home recording capability.

Don't put the cart in front of the horse… please!

Be a voice professional first.

How long will it take me to master home recording?

▌ Learning about recording is a lifelong pursuit!

Now that you've got some idea of what to expect from this document, let's jump right in and get started!

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES CAN I PURSUE IF I CHOOSE TO RECORD AT HOME?

Operating a home recording studio is a great way to expand your reach as a voice actor. There are three main ways a home studio can increase your access to opportunities:

1 Operating a home studio allows you to apply for voice over jobs in online voice over marketplaces without needing to find a place to record your work, which can place strict limits on the job's scheduling availability and financial efficacy.

2 Your home studio turns you into a full-service voice over production outfit, allowing you to pursue local clients for work directly (instead of looking for local work through studios and agencies).

3 With a home studio, you can easily record demos and auditions specifically tailored to a particular job, increasing your chances of getting the gig.

In this section, we'll talk a little about each of these benefits a home studio provides to give you some more insight into just how effective home recording can be.

First, let's take a look at online voice over marketplaces. These online marketplaces are internet platforms set up to connect people looking for voice over work with voice actors and agencies. A client looking for some voice over work might post a job listing to an online voice over marketplace, allowing voice actors and agencies to respond with resumes and demos. That client could then choose the actor or agency they believe to be the best fit and move forward from there.

Online marketplaces are competitive places to find work and can often be difficult for voice actors without home recording capability to pursue. Clients often will need work done on a very short timeline, and sometimes those clients won't have a huge budget. In this situation, a voice actor without home recording capability would need to find a recording studio with an open schedule for last-minute booking simply to be eligible to take the job. Even if they got the job, that voice actor would then have to use a portion of their pay to cover the studio time. Home recording capability,

on the other hand, would free a voice actor of these concerns. They'd be able to ensure a quick turnaround without needing to interface with local recording studios, and they'd end up keeping all of their pay.

In addition to opening up opportunities in online voice-over marketplaces, operating a home studio allows a voice actor to more efficiently pursue jobs directly with local businesses and other potential clients. As the operator of a full-production studio capable of doing all the work necessary to make a voice over, you can talk directly with clients. Not only does this freedom give you more control over the jobs you pursue, but it also allows you to keep 100% of the pay for a given voice over job, as opposed to having your pay filtered through a middleman like an agency.

Finally, having a home studio allows you to build audition and demo materials tailored to particular jobs and clients. This is useful for pursuing work in any setting, be it an online voice over marketplace or a more traditional face-to-face meeting. If your potential client stipulates an interest in voice actors with narrative experience, you could edit your demo or audition to include more narrative-style work. If you're applying for a job with a local businessperson who you know loves dogs, you could include a script about dogs in your audition tape. The possibilities for customization are endless!

WHAT ELSE DO I GET OUT OF A HOME STUDIO?

In addition to all of the professional opportunities a home studio opens up to a voice actor, there are a few non-gig-related benefits that come with a home studio as well. These might not seem as flashy and exciting as paying jobs and online marketplaces, but they're definitely still worth discussing.

First, having a home studio gives a voice actor endless opportunities to practice speaking with a microphone. This might not seem like a big deal, but comfort with a microphone is a huge asset to a voice actor, and comfort only comes with time and experience. There's no better way to give yourself more time and experience than to run your own studio!

Using a home studio also gives you the most schedule flexibility possible. You can work late in the evening, or early in the morning, or whenever else you feel like. You've got constant access to the equipment and knowledge you need to do your work as a voice actor. And if there's ever a time where you aren't in the mood to record voice over, you can reschedule yourself without worrying about paying for unused studio time!

Operating a home studio also allows a voice actor to keep their demo up-to-date with their voice over skill. Booking a professional recording studio to update a voice-over demo can be expensive,

and you might not always get exactly what you imagined out of your time. With home recording capability, on the other hand, you can update your demo any time you want, at no cost, with complete creative control over the end result. Plus, you can always create different versions of your demo to fit specific voice over opportunities you're pursuing. It's a great way to keep your professional resources in ship-shape!

If you decide to build a home studio, you'll inevitably become much more familiar with recording technology and recording studio operation. This understanding of recording technology is very useful to a voice actor. In addition to helping you

understand the work of audio engineers and producers, having a working knowledge of the recording process will allow you to converse more freely and in a more informed manner with industry professionals, helping you build your reputation and your relationships.

Last but not least, operating a recording studio can be fun! Many voice actors find the knowledge and skills necessary to record at home fulfilling. We can't promise that you'll have a blast every minute - in fact, we can basically guarantee that you'll sometimes feel frustrated. That's a part of operating recording technology, and there's no way around it. Still, on the whole, running a studio can be a very enjoyable and rewarding experience.

WHAT SKILLS SHOULD I POSSESS TO CONSIDER RECORDING FROM HOME?

Were you to ask this question even a few decades ago, pretty much anyone in the recording industry would have probably responded to you with something along the lines of, "How much time do you have?" At that point in time, basic recording involved knowledge about electrical engineering, physics, industry technology, soldering, and electrical repair, just to begin. The idea that someone could buy a few pieces of equipment and set up a recording studio in their own home was largely out-of-reach.
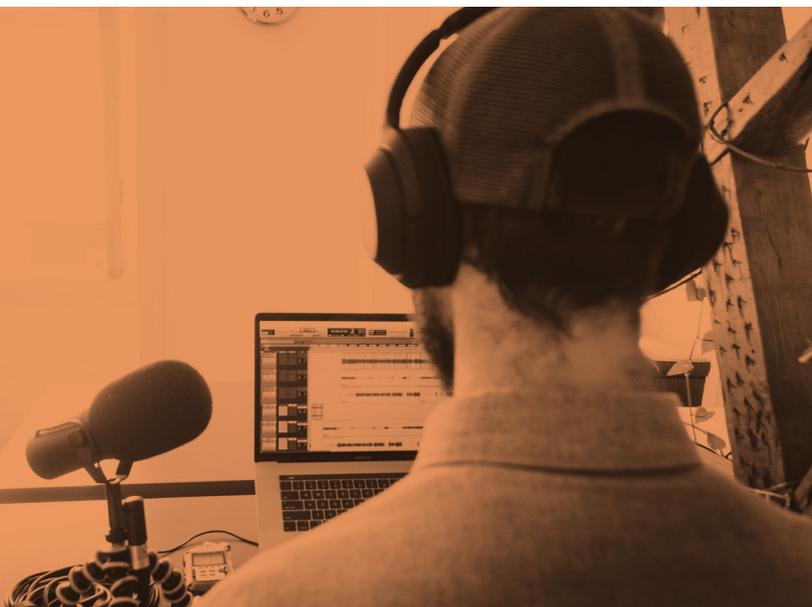
Luckily, these days, things are much simpler. Anyone can easily acquire the equipment they need to set up a recording studio, and most people are more than qualified to manage recording technology. There are, however, still a few basic skills we recommend you have before pursuing home recording.

The first thing you'll need is a certain level of comfort with modern computers and computer software. Digital technology (in the form of recording software) has made recording accessible to anyone, but in order to use it, you'll need to operate a computer fluidly. If that sounds intimidating, don't worry too much; we aren't talking about hacking the mainframe or coding software patches. The skills we're talking about are much more basic than that. Here's a brief list of some things you'll need to do with a computer to operate recording software:

Turn the computer on

Find a file in the computer filesystem

Launch a piece of software (like a word processor)

Open a file in a piece of software (like a word processor)
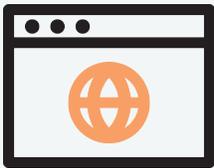
Launch a web browser

Search for something in a search engine (like Google)

Install a piece of software from a disc or file

If you understand and know how to execute most of the tasks on that list, you've got the comfort level you need with a computer to get started with a home studio. On the other hand, if you still feel unsure you've got the skill set necessary to run recording software, we recommend looking into a basic computer skills course in your area. These courses are designed to build comfort with computers, and they teach many of the skills you'll need to run a studio.

Once you feel you've got the comfort level with computers necessary to run a home studio, there's really only one other prerequisite skill you'll need to consider: patience. That might sound a little weird, but the fact is that putting together and running a home studio will inevitably lead to some serious bouts of frustration. Regardless of how comfortable you are with computers, you'll run into a situation where things don't go as planned. That's a part of the reality of recording technology, and there's no way around it. Successfully running a recording studio means knowing how to keep at it when things aren't going smoothly, and even more importantly, it means knowing when it's time to take a short break to prevent yourself from getting upset. Being patient enough to learn the ins and outs of your recording setup is a vital part of recording at home.

DO I NEED A SPECIAL ROOM OR SPACE TO RECORD AT HOME?

Before we do anything else, let's talk about the technical requirements of a home recording studio. There's certainly some equipment and software you'll need to acquire, and we'll get to that in a minute, but if we're really going to start at the beginning, we first need to think about your recording space.

Good recording space is vital to a studio. If you don't believe us, do a quick mental experiment. First, think about how your voice sounds in a gymnasium: big, boomy, and echoey. Now, think about how it sounds in a closet full of clothes: much quieter, crisper, and more subtle, right? Finally, think about how your voice sounds while you're sitting next to a running jet engine. It probably sounds... a lot like a running jet engine, which would completely overpower any human voice, no matter how loud. The differences in sound between these spaces are particularly extreme, but regardless of the environment, the point still stands: every space affects sound in a unique way. Recording in that space will capture those effects. So, before we think about fancy equipment and software, it's important to make sure your recording space treats the sound well - because you can have the best vocal microphone, reading technique, and recording knowhow in the world, but if you try to record yourself next to a jet engine, it's still going to sound like a jet engine.

This might sound intimidating... but don't worry! Finding a good recording space is simple once you break it down into steps.

First, you're going to need a spot that has enough room for equipment and a computer. If your space is too small, working in it effectively could be a squeeze. You're looking for a space that feels comfortable and easy to maneuver in.

Second, you'll need your space to be sonically isolated. A sonically isolated space is one which is minimally affected by other sources of noise - basically, you don't want your lawn-mowing neighbor or refrigerator buzz to get into your voice over recordings. Think back to the jet engine analogy: anywhere in the vicinity of a running jet engine would make a terrible recording studio space, because all you'd ever hear in the recordings is the roar of a jet. More practically, think about different sources of noise in your home. Refrigerators and AC units often make noise; certain light bulbs buzz when they're on; children, dogs, neighbors, cars driving by on the street, fire whistles, and pretty much anything else you can think of has the potential to create noise that gets into your recordings. The ideal recording space would be as isolated from all of these things as possible. Keep in mind, though, that there are other ways around some external sources of noise. AC units, fridges, and buzzing lights can all be turned off. You can also get around things like a neighbor's buzz saw or a fire whistle by simply rescheduling your recording session or waiting until the

sound is over. The best advice we have is this: first, look for a well-isolated space, and then think about how else you can prevent any sort of noise corruption in your recordings.

Lastly, you'll need a space that actually affects your voice in a way that's suitable for recording. Think back to the closet/gymnasium analogy: for voice over recording, the smaller, crisper, and more subtle your vocals sound, the better. It's easy to take a simple vocal recording and make it sound like it was recorded in a gymnasium if you ever have a job that calls for it, but it's almost impossible to take a recording with all the boomy echoes of a gymnasium and make it sound smaller and crisper. So,

you're looking for a space that sounds more like the closet full of clothes. Generally speaking, bedrooms make excellent locations for a home studio. Rooms with hard surfaces like kitchens or bathrooms, on the other hand, usually aren't great choices. But there's no hard and fast rule - ultimately, what matters is the sound. And if you're worried that you don't have a space like that in your home, don't worry! There are some really handy tricks you can use to turn most rooms into a space suitable for recording voice over.

Putting all that together, you're looking for a space that is big enough to comfortably fit you and all of your equipment, isolated from external sources of noise, and has a good, crisp sound to it.

WHAT EQUIPMENT DO I NEED TO RECORD AT HOME?

Once you've found your space, it's time to consider your recording equipment. Recording equipment falls into two categories: hardware (all the physical gear you'll need to record), and software (the programs you run on a computer). To properly run a studio, you'll need both hardware and software. This section will focus on hardware; the next section will discuss software in more detail.

Any home recording setup starts with a microphone (or "mic" for short). This is the piece of equipment responsible for turning sound

waves into electrical signal. Because it's what actually captures your voice's sound for recording, having a good microphone can make a huge difference in your ability to record high-quality voice over. There are many different types of microphones designed for many different purposes; for a home recording studio, a large diaphragm condenser microphone is a good place to start. (Don't worry if that doesn't mean anything to you; it's just some technical language describing a type of microphone designed to record the human voice!) In addition to a microphone, you'll want a mic stand and maybe a few other accessories as well.

In addition to the microphone, you'll need a computer. The computer is the piece of equipment you'll use to save, edit, and process your recordings. Think of it as your mission control! To operate a home studio, you won't need the fastest computer ever, but having a good machine can help keep recording sessions flowing efficiently. Also, keep in mind that software often comes with minimum hardware requirements or recommendations; once you've chosen your software, it's important to make sure your computer meets those requirements in order to ensure the software runs smoothly.

At this point, you've got a microphone, which deals with analog electrical signal, and a computer, which deals with digital electrical signal. Now it's time to think about your audio interface, which converts signal between analog and digital. Without an interface,

your computer wouldn't be able to record from your microphone. In addition to connecting your mic to your computer, your interface will usually be responsible for managing some other tasks as well, like levelling your microphone and managing your monitors (the speakers or headphones you'll use to listen back to your recording).

So now you've got a microphone to capture sound in electricity, an interface to turn that sound signal into digital information, and a computer to save and edit those sounds. It's time to think about how you'll actually listen to your recordings. In the recording industry, we call this "monitoring," and it's usually done with headphones during the recording part of the process and speakers during the editing part of the process. Confusingly, the speakers used to monitor sound are often called "monitors," whereas headphones are not, even though both are used to monitor sound. It's just one of those weird industry quirks. Regardless, you'll likely need both a pair of monitor speakers and a set of headphones for monitoring in your studio.
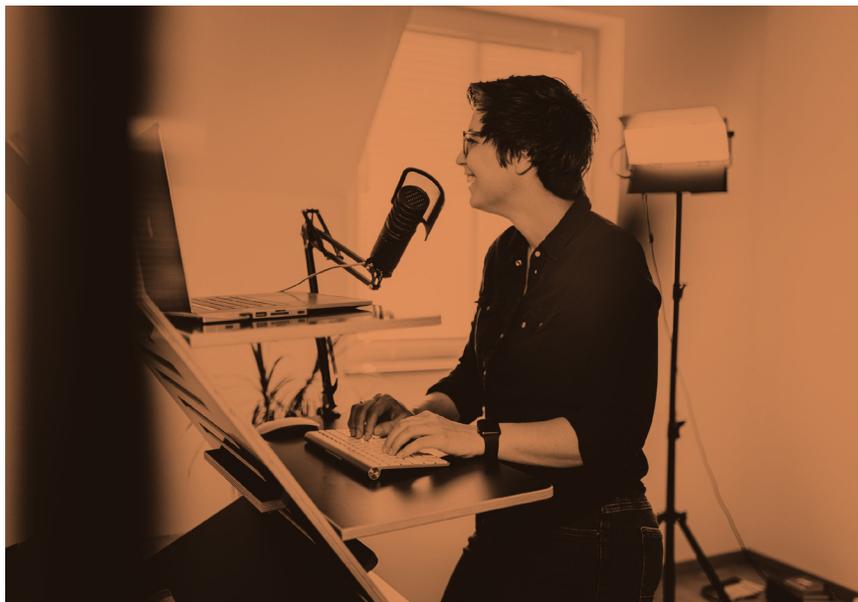
Finally, you'll need any cables necessary to plug hook your equipment up. This will probably consist of mic cables and USB cables, but some interfaces and speaker sets require specific types of cables.

It's worth noting that some microphones, called "USB microphones," contain their own audio interface. These microphones can be plugged directly into a computer to simplify the recording process. Some USB microphones have a poor reputation for sound quality, but there are a number of professional voice actors who swear by them and use them to great effect.

WHAT SOFTWARE DO I NEED TO RECORD AT HOME?

We know that recording software can be intimidating to install and run, but don't worry! It's not nearly as complex as it sounds.

The key to understanding recording software is the DAW. The term "DAW" stands for "Digital Audio Workstation," and is the blanket term for any kind of software designed to record and edit audio. Sometimes it's pronounced like it rhymes with "saw;" other times people spell out "D-A-W." Regardless of how you say it, DAWs are the fundamental unit of recording software.

There are hundreds of different DAWs out there, each with their own specific quirks and features. If you're software-savvy, we encourage you to do some reading and decide for yourself which

one might be best for you. If not, don't worry about it! The vast majority of DAWs work just fine for voice over recording. 10 years ago, everyone was expected to use a program called "Pro Tools" to run their recording sessions. These days, it doesn't matter what software you use - all that matters is that your studio produces high-quality recordings and you know how to run your system.

If software use isn't something you've got a lot of experience with, proprietary DAWs like Logic and Pro Tools can provide the most tried-and-true, user-friendly interfaces. Audacity is another good, simple, easy-to-use option with the added benefit of being free, although it comes with some drawbacks as well. Regardless of what kind of software you choose, remember to use the resources at your disposal to learn more about operating it. Software manuals and online wikis are great sources of information that can help you learn how to get the most out of your software experience.

On the other hand, for those of you with computer experience who want to broaden your horizons, there's really no bad option. The DAWs mentioned above provide many advanced features to explore in addition to their basic functionality. You could also look into software like Adobe Audition, which is known for its customizability among the proprietary DAWs. If you're looking for a free or low-cost option, Audacity, Cakewalk, Ardour, and REAPER are great options. Audacity and Cakewalk are fully

free, while Ardour and REAPER are among the lowest-cost DAW packages out there. REAPER is widely considered the most customizable DAW and is known for its breadth of use. Ardour has a reputation for being quite difficult to learn, but those who stick with it often say that it is the best DAW ever designed.

Once you've chosen your DAW, you'll need to install it. This is done either by downloading an installer from a website or by ordering CDs through the mail. The CD installation method is becoming less and less common, with many modern DAWs now only offering installation through internet downloads. Ultimately, the method you use to install your software shouldn't matter, though it's a good idea to keep your internet connection in mind if you choose to download an installer. The size of many DAWs can run into the dozens of gigabytes, and downloading that much information can take a really long time. For this reason, a poor internet connection could mean your download takes many hours. There's no reason a long download won't work, but it can be helpful to plan around them - for example, if you work from your computer at home, it's probably best to try to run your installation over the weekend or at night instead of during a work day.

Once your DAW is installed, you'll need to launch it and learn how to use it. There's really no shortcut to learning to use a DAW; like learning any new skill, it takes time and effort figuring things out. The good news is that there are many resources designed to help

you do just that. The internet is full of useful tutorials waiting to be found - try searching for answers to any questions you have on Google or YouTube. There are also classes designed to help you set up your studio equipment and get comfortable with the basics of DAW function. Ultimately, though, there's no substitute for spending time with the software.

Once you've installed your DAW and begun the process of learning to use it, your studio is effectively up and running! You've got the space, the gear, and the software to make high-quality recordings from the comfort of your home. Now all that remains is to put that resource to work for you!

ARE WEB-BASED VOICE OVER MARKETPLACES EASY PLACES TO FIND WORK?

There are two answers to this question: the short answer, and the long answer.

Let's first take a look at the short answer. Are web-based voice over marketplaces easy places to find work?

Unfortunately, no.

Now, let's take a look at the long answer: are web-based voice over marketplaces easy places to find work?

Well, no... not really. But that doesn't mean it's not worth using them!

You see, if there's one thing we believe in more than anything else here at Voice Coaches, it's that there's really never an "*easy*" way to do things. There's no shortcut to becoming a successful voice actor, and no surefire way to make boatloads of money with your voice. If there were, everyone would be voice acting in their spare time.

When it comes to tools like web-based voice over marketplaces, thinking about them in terms of how easy they are to successfully use is the wrong mental framework. There are many aspiring

voice actors out there, and if you submit applications on these marketplaces you'll be entering a wide-ranging, stiffly competitive pool of talent. It's simply unrealistic to expect that you can go online and find a paycheck on your first day.

That said, the only way you can guarantee that you *won't* get a voice over job is by not applying. It's certainly true that web-based voice over marketplaces are competitive environments, and that your likelihood of getting any one job you apply for probably isn't very high. It's also true that there are many, many opportunities for work on these marketplaces, and that applying for those opportunities is often made incredibly easy for a voice actor. So while you probably won't strike gold as soon as you make yourself a voice actor profile, it may still be worth exploring online avenues to find work depending on your individual marketing strategy. You never know when things will swing your way until you stop trying; that's when you guarantee that they won't. And remember to use all of your available resources - if you think you can record a special audition or edit your demo to maximize your chances of getting a particular job, go for it!

If this is discouraging you from the online environment as a forum for finding voice over work, don't worry! There's still plenty of work to be found with more traditional marketing techniques. Building relationships in your community and looking for jobs with local businesses and people you're already connected to is an

excellent way to pursue voice over work as well. In fact, we would never recommend giving up these more traditional pursuits in favor of web-based marketplaces. By looking for work both online and offline and pursuing multiple avenues, a voice actor can cast a broad net and give themselves the best chance for success.

## HOW DO MY RESPONSIBILITIES CHANGE AS A HOME RECORDING PROVIDER?

When working outside of a home studio, a voice actor is generally responsible only for the voice-acting component of a VO job. They need to take care of their voice and practice their performance skill, they need to show up on time, and they need to work with the client, producer, and engineer to produce the best possible performance. What happens once the sound has left the voice actor's mouth is beyond their domain; that's where the recording process starts and the sound engineer takes over. Similarly, the creative decisions involved in recording a voice over are usually beyond the purview of the voice actor and instead fall to the producer.

Operating a home recording studio changes this situation for a voice actor. Instead of simply focusing on producing a high-quality performance in line with the producer's creative notes, a voice actor recording at home is responsible for every piece of

the puzzle. They need to take on the role of the producer, the engineer, and the editor all while maintaining their focus on performing high-quality voice over in order to create a professional recording and satisfy their client as best they can.

The audio engineer is responsible for managing and operating the recording equipment. If you put together a home studio, it becomes your responsibility to be familiar enough with your gear to quickly recognize and fix any problems that might arise. It's also important to become familiar enough with your studio's operation that you don't need to focus on which knobs to turn and buttons to press to keep things working. That way, you can spend all of your mental energy on keeping the performance and creative decision-making at a high level.

The producer is responsible for making any creative decisions that come up in the recording process. It is their responsibility to interpret the script and direct the voice actor to a delivery matching that interpretation. Running a recording session in your home studio, it becomes your responsibility to take these tasks on. Instead of simply reading the script, you'll need to learn to think about how you want to portray that script to maximize whatever impact your client is looking for. You'll also often have to make decisions on any sort of sound effects or music that are included in your recording. And you'll have to do it all without losing your focus as a voice actor.
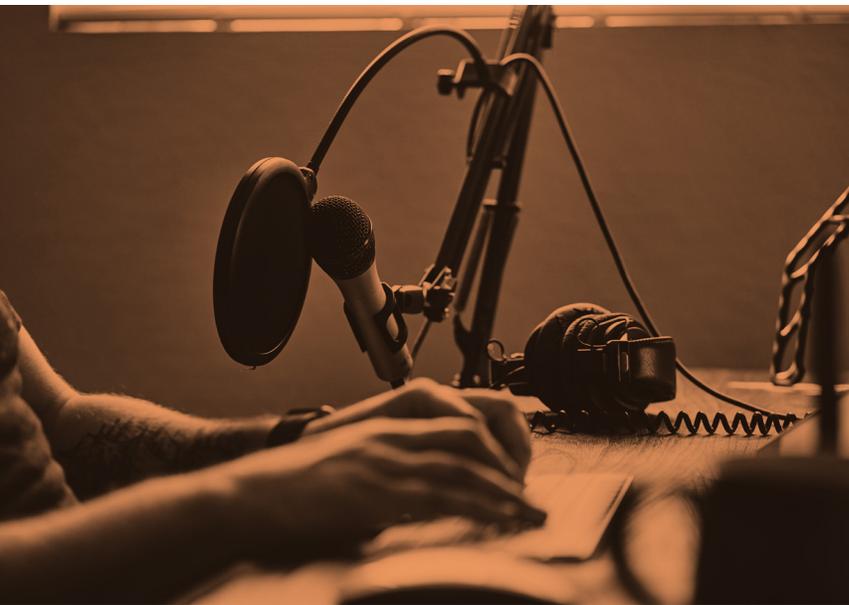
The editor is responsible for taking the recording made by the engineer and turning that recording into a final product. Sometimes, the engineer or the producer will do the editing themselves, but it's a completely separate part of the recording process and requires a unique skill set. When operating a home studio, the job of editing falls to you. It becomes your responsibility to operate your recording software and manipulate your recording into a final product in line with your creative ideas as a producer and the specifications of the client.

On top of all of these new responsibilities, you might find yourself doing a job in which the client asks to be directly involved in the development and decision-making. In those situations, you'll need to interface professionally with the client and work together to create a high-quality result. On the technical side, this involves the installation of some communication method (like a speakerphone or video chat platform) in your home studio so that any potential collaborators can tune in to your recording

and editing sessions. On the business-facing side, it's always important to keep effective communication guidelines in mind when working with other professionals in your field. Doing so will ensure that the project goes as smoothly as possible, in addition to bolstering your reputation as a voice over professional.

Considering all of these things together, it's no wonder home recording can be so intimidating. It brings many new levels of responsibility for the final product directly onto the voice actor! Still, don't feel too discouraged or concerned; while these new responsibilities may seem different at first, many voice actors come to embrace them and excel with time and practice. It's good to understand the responsibilities that come with operating a recording studio, but don't let them be the deciding factor in whether you choose to build a home recording setup! Anyone can learn to master home recording if they're willing to put in the effort.

DO I NEED TO BUILD MY HOME RECORDING SETUP NOW, OR COULD I DO IT IN THE FUTURE?

Many voice actors interested in running their own studio wait until they've developed some career experience and cultivated their industry knowledge and professional skill before building out home recording capability. A home studio can be a wonderful

asset to a voice actor, but there are many other parts of the job! With so many different ways to find work, you shouldn't feel as if you need to build your studio right away to get the most out of your voice acting.

If you're concerned that you'll be neglecting your career by postponing a home studio build, don't worry about it - there are many other ways to develop as a voice actor. Building a home studio is a project that should only be taken on when you feel ready. It's a large endeavor and will take a fair amount of your focus, so it's in your best interest to make sure you've got the time and energy to do it right before you begin.

DON'T GET THE CART IN FRONT OF THE HORSE... PLEASE!

When it comes to operating a home recording studio, there is no shortcut that can be taken without compromising the end result. You need a good recording space, high-quality equipment, an understanding of how to best use that equipment, and most importantly… *a good voice over performance*. No amount of studio magic can take a poor voice over performance and make it into a high-quality voice over.

When it comes to developing a career as a voice actor, it's important to keep in mind that voice acting skill comes first. Building a home studio is an exciting project and can be a great

way to increase your reach as a voice actor, but it won't do anything for you unless you've already put in the time to develop your voice acting skill. It's classic advice: don't put the cart before the horse. Remember that all of your success as a voice actor is built on your voice acting skill before anything else. It takes hard work and sometimes even a bit of luck, but unless you've got the goods, nothing else matters.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE ME TO MASTER RECORDING?

At this point, you've likely got enough information to decide whether or not home recording is something you'd be interested in pursuing. Remember, while it can be a wonderful way to grow yourself as a voice actor, you can absolutely build success as a voice actor without home recording capability!

If you do decide to build a studio, it's important to keep in mind that there'll never come a time when you know everything about recording. No one does! Any recording professional can tell you that learning about recording is a lifelong pursuit. With effort, it won't take you long to learn enough about using your setup to produce high-quality voice over and get your studio operational in a professional sense, but you'll never run out of new information to pick up and new skills to cultivate. That's one of the parts about home recording that's so exciting: there's always more to learn!

As you continue to learn more about the field of voice over, we invite you to check back on our website voicecoaches.com for regular updates. For the past ten years, we've published Voice Coaches Radio, a free podcast about all things voice over, also accessible via our website. In addition, we offer regular introductory seminars for individuals interested in pursuing the voice over field.